

## CHAPTER VI

### TRAINING AND WORK IN THE YPRES AND CANAL SECTORS WITH THE BRITISH

JULY 11TH TO AUGUST 16TH

The period of training from July 11th to August 16th was entirely in front line work, the regiment being attached to British divisions, the 33rd, 34th and 49th holding the line in the Ypres and Canal Sectors, the dividing line between the two sectors being approximately the Poperinghe-Ypres road from Poperinghe to the outskirts of Ypres and then in a southeasterly direction to the southern side of Zillebeke Lake. Work was done in both these sectors, the 49th British Division being in the Ypres Sector and the 33d Division being in the Canal Sector. See *Plate I*.

In order to give the entire regiment training in the various works that were being constructed and maintained and to become familiar with the whole front the different units were rotated on the works, by platoons, engaging in the same work for periods of one week each.

This period will therefore be subdivided into periods as follows: July 11th to July 24th, July 24th to July 31st, August 1st to August 16th.

During this period Regimental Headquarters and one battalion headquarters were maintained at Strathcona Camp, F 13 d 7.4, and there were always from four to six platoons in camp here continuing the infantry training. *All map references in this period refer to Plate I.*

JULY 11TH TO JULY 23RD

During this period it rained ten out of the fourteen days.

#### *First Battalion*

The First Battalion engaged in infantry training at Strathcona Camp near Proven. The work done was the same as had been

followed in bayonet, musketry and gas training, and in addition combat exercises were engaged in in the afternoons as outlined in "Offensive Combat for Small Units." This training continued uninterrupted from July 11th to July 15th and after that the units were split up and some sent out on engineering work. Following is an outline of the work as done by each company:

*Company A:* Company A spent the entire period from July 11th to July 24th at Strathcona Camp engaged in infantry training as outlined above.

*Company B:* The entire company remained at Strathcona Camp only from July 11th to July 15th and while there were engaged in infantry training as outlined. On July 16th three platoons were sent forward to work with R. E.'s (Royal Engineers) of the 49th British Division in the line. The first platoon (B-1), under Lieutenant Trescott, was sent to "Dirty Bucket" Camp at A 30 Central (see *Plate I*) and were attached to the field company of R. E.'s there until July 23rd. While so attached they were engaged with the R. E. Company in improving the fortifications in the Vlamertinghe Line by the construction of machine gun posts, pill boxes, bomb-proof shelters, splinter-proof shelters, wire entanglements and the construction of trenches. This work was done during the day, working from 6:00 A. M. to 2:00 P. M.

The second platoon (B-2), under Lieutenant Church, went to Dead End Camp I 2 c 1.8 on the canal west of Ypres (see *Plate I and Photographs 24 and 25, Pictorial Section*), where they were attached to another of the R. E. companies until July 23rd. While there this platoon worked on fortifications in the front line trenches, which consisted of the construction of machine gun emplacements, strong points, observation posts, and in main-